

ER 10-8877

DD/S 58-4389

The Honorable Arthur S. Flemming  
Secretary of Health, Education,  
and Welfare  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Flemming:

It is my understanding that the Office of Education of your Department has in recent weeks held consultations with foreign language consultants concerning the implementation of the provisions of the National Defense Education Act of 1958 - Public Law 85-864.

The act has been reviewed with great interest since our Agency strongly endorses the effort being made by the Government to increase language and area training. We recognize the need for supporting graduate centers, but we must also depend on undergraduate schools to provide increased language training for young men entering the Government. It has been my belief that the nation's language capabilities can be improved by (1) intensive language training at graduate, undergraduate, and even at secondary levels; (2) supporting institutions to train teachers in modern foreign language teaching methods; and (3) the development of superior instructional materials.

Government and business organizations in these complex times require highly competent area specialists. In addition, there is a need for individuals with less advanced area knowledge who can assist and support the experts in particular areas of specialization. It is my belief that increased language and area training can be beneficial at all levels.

I have taken the liberty of expressing my thoughts to you on foreign language and area training because the program which will be developed by your Department can be a major factor in developing individuals to meet the challenge of the present world emergency.

In view of your interest in this field, I thought you might like to know what we are doing in language training. Therefore I am enclosing a brief analysis of our Language Development Program. We started intensive work in this field about three years ago and I think significant progress has been made toward the development of a language competence in this Agency which will prove very valuable to the United States Government.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

Enclosure

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